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CENTS

ALL INCOME  
USED TO COMBAT  
COMMUNISM

# COMMON SENSE

To Educate People to the Danger of Communism — In Plain Words for Plain People.  
FOR CHRISTIANITY AS OPPOSED TO MARXISM



By Mail, \$2. per Year

Union, New Jersey

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## IT COULD HAPPEN HERE!

### Is Stalin Promoting The Marshall Plan?

INDICATIONS ARE REDS PLAN TO GRAB  
U. S. HELP TO OTHER NATIONS

By SAMUEL B. PETTENGILL  
"The Gentleman from Indiana"

Speaking in London before the Pilgrim Society, Secretary of State Marshall said the difference between socialism in England and free enterprise in America is not serious.

Millions of Americans in both the old parties, who have not spent their lives in the Army, think the difference between the two systems is serious and important.

Mr. Marshall's remarks were not well taken in England. Both the British Socialists and the Conservatives hold that "great differences of principle as well as of practice" do exist between the two systems. The British Information Service makes this very plain.

Mr. Marshall's remark was taken to undermine either Prime Minister Attlee or former Prime Minister Churchill. In short, that the "difference" was not worth fighting about. Of course, the actual effect was to strengthen Attlee and the Labor party, the party now in power.

While "democratic" socialists are now opposed to what is called "communism" under Stalin, the fact is that "democratic socialism" is the ante-chamber to either fascism or communism.

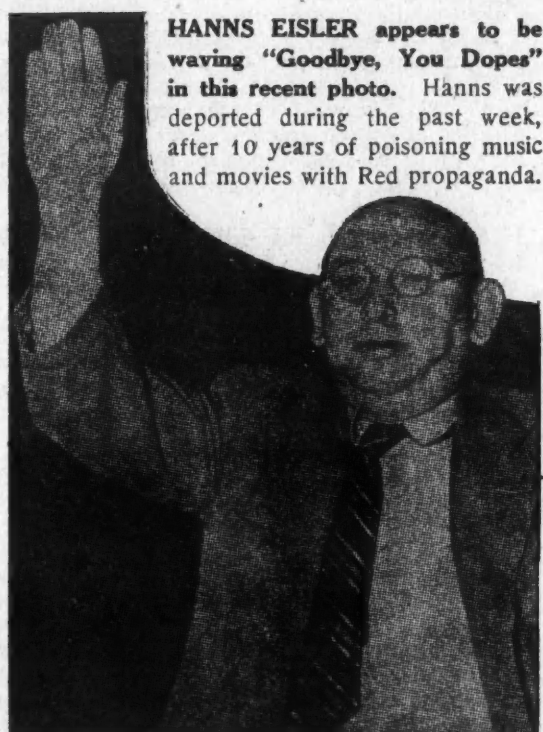
Once started, the laws of political gravity pull socialism ever closer to the "police state." Hitler and Mussolini both began as socialists. The Russians also call their system socialism.

I am getting leery of generals in American politics. Modern war has a tendency to train generals to think along socialistic lines, overall planning, regimentation of everybody, and The Brass-barking orders to civilians. This virus spreads to civilians.

Former Secretary of State and War Henry L. Stimson, advocating the Marshall Plan, says we "have much to learn about the variety of forms which free enterprise may take" in Europe! Free enterprise, my eye!

Listen to another business man, Secretary of Commerce Harriman, who has apparently "gone Washington". He says that while we "firmly believe the American system is the best method of obtaining high productivity," he does not think we should ask foreigners to adopt it. Why not? If we firmly believe freedom is the best way, why not firmly advocate it? If we believe socialism is the wrong way, why should we finance it? Why use American dollars to bolster up an impossible way to obtain high production?

We once had a truly American Secretary of State — Henry Clay. This is what he said: "We have done more for the cause of liberty in the



HANNS EISLER appears to be waving "Goodbye, You Dopes" in this recent photo. Hanns was deported during the past week, after 10 years of poisoning music and movies with Red propaganda.

SELDOM DOES ANY PUBLICATION HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT TO ITS READERS, IN THE SAME ISSUE, TWO ARTICLES CONTAINING SO MUCH FOOD FOR THOUGHT AND INSPIRATION FOR ACTION AS THOSE FEATURED BY "COMMON SENSE" TODAY. WE URGE THOROUGH CONSIDERATION OF EVERY POINT RAISED BY MR. PETTENGILL AND MR. HART. We also suggest that our readers listen to Mr. Hart speak to the nation on The Marshall Plan over the American Broadcasting Company network on Monday, February 23, from 10:45 to 11:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time. Plan to listen —and tell your friends. — Ed.

world than arms could affect. We have shown to other nations the way to greatness and happiness . . . We should keep our lamp burning brightly on this Western shore, as a light to all nations, rather than to hazard its utter extinction amid the ruins of fallen republics in Europe."

The way to really help Europe, is to tell its politicians to restore incentives to men to work and produce. We should point out "the way to greatness."

#### IS STALIN PROMOTING THE MARSHALL PLAN ?

The official line in Washington is that Russia is opposed to the Marshall Plan. But is she?

During the war, our wise men in Washington told us that Russia was a "freedom loving democracy"; that Stalin was a fine chap and noble fellow with heart of gold. They were wrong. Are they wrong now?

I wish we had some good horse-traders who were shrewd enough to imagine that Stalin might want us to go forward with the Marshall Plan, and figure out the angles on that basis.

Why should we believe anything Stalin, or his stooges, say. Didn't Stalin say at one time:

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DANGER IS REAL — AND NEAR; CONDITIONS FAVOR COMMUNIST UPRISING; HOW REDS GOT STARTED HERE; HOW TO RECOGNIZE REVOLUTION.

By MERWIN K. HART, Pres. National Economic Council in Economic Council Letter No. 185

A recent poll showed that the overwhelming portion of American parents do not want their sons to go into politics. It is too dirty.

It is through that kind of thinking that we got where we are. No wonder the alien-minded have so large a control. Here is the greatest aid both to Communism and Socialism in America.

Prophecy is risky. The shape of things to come may be altered by events as unexpected as Pearl Harbor. We may have shooting war with the USSR either without warning or after a long period of growing tension. Or, such hostilities may be averted for many years. What is said here takes all these possibilities into account. But we must write of what we see and know, and must speak as we think.

As compared to total populations, the percentage of acknowledged Communists in the United States today is nearly as great as, if not greater than, the percentage that took over Russia in October, 1917.

The assertion that Russia in 1917 was a vast, backward country, more easily captured by a small number of people than a modern, highly integrated country like the U.S.A., is not to be trusted. It reveals the kind of misunderstanding of our danger which Communists encourage. A highly integrated, complex society like our is more vulnerable, not less, than was the vast sprawling empire of the Czars. Lenin and Trotzky seized power through having organized communications, transportation and financial workers in Petrograd, then a city of three millions. A substantial part of that preparatory organization has been completed here.

A more highly organized economy can be all the more quickly paralyzed because it can be taken at a few key points. Three hundred tugboat workers, for example, hold the City of New York at their mercy. They can cut off the major supplies of food and fuel. A few bombs judiciously placed could cut off all electric current and fuel gas. Sabotage at key points could disrupt telephone and telegraph communication with the outside world and within the city as well. Subways would grind to a halt. Lights would go out. Elevators would stop. Police forces would lose communication with each other.

What saboteurs could do to New York, they could do to other American cities. But that would be only the start. Electrified railways could be halted by the crippling of a few power stations, steam railways by the wrecking of a few bridges. Big steel plants could be brought to a halt by easy sabotage, or quickly forced to close for lack of transportation and fuel. New York City's whole complex, interdependent economy could be completely stalled by a thousand determined saboteurs who knew exactly what they had to do.

And under such circumstances how bold would be the rank and file of the people?

Three or four years ago six or eight Negro youths, entering a subway train between Manhat-

(continued on page 2, col. 2)



## A REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE NATION

By August Walters of Newark, N. J.

The nation is in economic chaos. To solve this chaos, only one measure will succeed in doing so. Outlaw the most dishonest method of financing the nation, the legally-protected Federal Reserve Act. This act has placed the nation completely in the hands of the International Bankers, the greatest curse for the last 100 years, ever since Alexander Hamilton succeeded in taking the financing of the nation out of the hands of Congress and put it in the hands of the International Bankers. In his days the International Bankers were the English, nowadays we have our own American International Bankers,

In 1835 the nation had no national debts. Private debts were also very small. Since that time we have gone into debt to the money powers to the extent of about

**600000 million dollars or 600 billion dollars.**

Since the Federal Reserve Act was established we have gone into the hands of the Federal Reserve Bankers about

**75 to 100 billion dollars 100000 million dollars**

This was accomplished within 34 years with an original capital of about 140 million dollars.

If we consider the total of 600 billion dollars it would mean we have gone into debt at the rate of

**6 billion dollars a year for the last 100 years.**

The treasury officials can not be so dumb not to realize that the nation is being robbed by these bankers with a system which is based on nothing but fallacies and illusions. In other words, it is the greatest flim flam trick practised upon the workers of the nation, as all this money was originally earned by the workers and taken over by the money powers. If anybody can contradict this statement, I would like to hear from him.

In my opinion it is the duty of the treasury officials to come before the people and say:

"Gentlemen: We have discovered an error in our method of financing the nation. It apparently is based on fallacies and illusions and wrong economic thinking and we propose to remedy this condition by substituting an honest system which will benefit the workers as well as the bankers.

"The remedy is simple. We have to revert to the system applied by our early patriots, men like Andrew Jackson, Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin. They based their financing upon the CREDIT of the nation, which is unlimited.

"To arrive at the solution we propose the following system:

1. Pay for all governmental needs for goods and services with a treasury check.
2. Let recipient deposit this check with his bank.
3. Instruct banker to return treasury check to Treasury Department, which opens NATIONAL CREDIT for banker on the books of the Treasury Department.
4. Banker in turn opens BANKERS CREDIT for depositor.
5. Pay banker a SERVICE CHARGE of 1% for handling the transaction.
6. To protect banker against any losses, present him with NATIONAL CREDIT BONDS equal to the amount of treasury checks either cashed or credited by the bankers.

As National Credit Bonds do not carry interest charges, the nation would save this money to begin with.

Now bear in mind, that both bond issues are based upon the same security, our NATIONAL CREDIT, which is based upon our RAW MATERIALS and LABOR.

It stands to reason that no banker could refuse national credit. If this simple and honest finance plan would be adopted, **we could finance 100 Billion Dollars at the small cost of 1% Bankers**

# IT COULD HAPPEN HERE!

(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE)

tan and Brooklyn, passed through the train insulting passengers, calling out in substance that their day had passed and that the day of the Negroes had come. The people in the crowded cars took it meekly — did nothing. Finally one man ventured to remonstrate and he was promptly shot. The Negroes escaped at the next subway station.

Unless the American people wake up to what is going on far more than they have yet done — that is precisely what will happen when these communist roughnecks start something. Just as most persons, including most of our "best people," now avoid involvement even in a discussion of Communism, so they probably would put up no fight when the emergency comes. They are neither morally, mentally nor physically prepared.

Is there anybody so naive as to imagine that plans for such action are not already made? What do you suppose has been taught now these many years in most of the communist schools scattered about the country? No matter in what form the crisis comes upon us, most of what has been outlined above could take place within twenty-four hours.

Industrial plants taken as a whole would be harmed only to the extent necessary to seize them. The conspirators would not want them destroyed. But just as the finest automobile cannot run if somebody deftly removes the distributor points or cuts the gas line, so the American economy would stand still while the conspirators went on to their next steps.

### What Americans Most Need to Know

But the ability of Communists to strike a hard, initial blow is not the only factor Americans need to understand. They need to know the way is being prepared for it.

In 1917 the little group of men who seized Russia for Communism stood alone. They had to improvise. The movement behind them was international, but only in the sense that it had co-conspirators in other nations. No country in the world had a communistic government. They had little or no outside backing. Few soft-headed capitalists were yet ready to finance them. Their plan of action was not yet integrated.

Today, the American communist conspirators have behind them one of the two great powers remaining in the world. That power for thirty years has been amassing resources to implement its intention to make the whole world communist. To do this, it has created and financed a vast underground organization throughout the world, trained as no other organization has ever been

trained before. The body calling itself the "Communist Party of the U. S." is, by admissions of its leaders, a part of that conspiratorial organization. Its one mission is to do here by plan what Lenin and his handful did in Russia in 1917 by improvisation. It has no other objective.

Further, the Bolsheviks of 1917 made their attempt to establish Communism in one nation then almost encircled by a world of free economies enjoying political freedom. They established an island of Communism in a non-collectivist world.

### Now the Situation is Reversed

Today, the "Bolsheviks" in America find the situation exactly reversed in their own favor. The USSR is the strongest power on the Eurasian continent. Already in Europe it has taken over eleven formerly independent nations as well as a large part of Germany. In the Far East it is approaching a position of dominance. The Middle East trembles in anticipation of the next move. And, while it is probably not prepared for immediate war with the U.S.A., it is without question feverishly getting ready for such a clash. Yet Soviet Russia's agents in America, instead of having to establish an island of collectivism in a free world, have only to capture the last great island of freedom in a collectivist world.

When Lenin and his band undertook to capture the Russian nation the number of convinced socialists or other collectivists was an infinitesimal portion of the whole population. The land was in the throes of change. A people were casting off the chains of centuries—or thought they were. A burning desire for human freedom was in the air. The Bolsheviks took advantage of this.

### Conditions in U. S. Favor Communist Uprising

The agents of international Communism in the United States face a situation infinitely more favorable to them. They have been at work here for years. They are well organized not only in a few centers, but throughout the U.S.A.

And they have allies, even if many of their allies do not know whose work they have been doing. For a whole generation the United States has been undergoing the process of being "softened up" for some form of collectivism. Educators, economists, clergymen, editors, writers and a host of others have propagandized the minds of young Americans for the Welfare State. It has been presented as everything that it is not—seldom as what it is. It has been dubbed, variously, "liberalism," "democracy," "the Christian Social Gospel," "the progressive attitude," "social-mindedness,"—and even "economic freedom!" And

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THE CHRISTIAN RELIEF COMMITTEE has been instrumental in sending many bundles to cold and starving families in Europe. If you would like to help, bring any food or clothing to the above meeting in Moose Hall, Irvington, Tuesday, March 9

Service charges, which would amount to **1 Billion Dollars.**

Is there anywhere in the nation one banker or individual who could not realize the tremendous advantage for the people if this modern finance plan is adopted by our representatives?

I have not been able to obtain one single definite answer from any representative or high government official as well as any banker in the nation and I would like to know the reason why.

It stands to reason that we could finance Europe without endangering our own security and stop the influence of Communism anywhere, as all nations could adopt this very same system to get out of financial difficulties.

Who in the nation has the courage to support the writer's modern finance plan, which is based on the original financing of the nation but adopted to our modern methods of doing banking.

Hail the new dawn and get out of paw.



now it is to be given another false label—"Christian Communism."

Communism is, of course, none of these things. But millions of Americans have been taught to believe that it is. They have been softened up until perhaps unconsciously, they have come to accept the presuppositions of collectivism.

The Sons of the American Revolution published a pamphlet, "The Betrayal of America." It is a brief before the California legislature supporting charges against the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Curriculum Commission, and the State Board of Education. The alleged offense is a deliberate attempt through the schools of the State to inculcate the youth with Marxist principles.

It is stated therein that a left-wing program, entitled "Building America," was approved by the State Board of Education against the protest of many citizens. The assertion is made that there is evidence, however, that an essential part of this program was examined by the Soviet Consul General in New York in advance of the meeting!

Largely thorough and in the schools and many of the colleges lies our extreme danger. For when young men and women turn from the philosophy of freedom and assent to the philosophy of collectivism, they have taken a step that many never retrace, even in later life. Since Communism is only one of a number of collectivist sects, any convinced collectivist is only one short, easy step from it. And what is more natural than for eager young "liberals" and "progressives" to be drawn toward the most dynamic collectivist sect, the sect that claims the future for its own? These are all things which American Communists know very well. They rely on them. They devised and planned them. It was necessary for Communists in Russia to educate a generation in collectivism after their revolution. In America this education has been undertaken in advance and is already far along. And much of it has the tacit blessings of multitudes of respectable Americans.

#### How Russia Got Started Here

In Russia, except for the Lvov-Keresnsky interlude in 1917, Lenin and his associates faced a government which, however corrupt or stupid, fought against them with all its power. American Communists have been faced with no such obstacle to the development of their conspiracy. It has been just the opposite. The first important foreign policy act of the Roosevelt Administration was the recognition of the Soviet Government in 1933. Formal promises were then given the United States that Russian agents would not interfere in our domestic affairs — promises violated before the ink was dry — and continually and cynically violated ever since.

Instead of resenting this, the New Deal Administration allowed itself to become infested with Communists and communist fellow-travelers who infiltrated almost every department and agency of the executive branch of the government. They and their friends helped turn that Administration into what was virtually an agency for collectivizing America. For the New Deal, as the National Economic Council has pointed out for years, and as many who formerly scoffed at the charge are now excitedly discovering, is only a domestic label for old-world, reactionary, bureaucratic collectivism.

Now we are beginning to pay the price for the New Deal, even while the politicians responsible for it try to shift the blame and charge up the consequences of their own folly to the very business men they have tried to ruin.

Now we must pay heavily for the encouragement that Administration has from 1933 to 1947 given to Communism at home and its abject appeasement of Communism abroad. We must pay for the aid it has given collectivism in the U.S.A. by its contemptuous rejection of every principle and policy that contributed to make America great. We must pay for the vast impetus given Communism by the criminal stupidity of our European and Asiatic adventures, which have removed the barriers that separated us from our one most implacable foe. Never did the Russian Bolsheviks of 1903-1907 receive such hearty cooperation from the regime they conspired to destroy. We shall be fortunate if the price we must pay for the New Deal is not the final surrender of our freedom and our national existence.

#### We Must Revise Our Thinking

What have been stated above are some of the background factors that must be understood if we are to evaluate realistically the communist threat to America.

Most Americans think of changes of government in terms of our usual elections, of the free processes of constitutional government. They take it for granted that Communism can never be adopted in America unless the people vote for it.

Of course it is obvious that Communists or anybody else will be perfectly willing to take a

country without a fight if they can get it as a gift. And there is ground for believing that if the collectivizing of America continues for a few more years, we might at last drop like a ripe plum into the lap of Stalin or his successor. The adoption of the welfare projects asked by President Truman in his address to Congress January 7th last would carry us far toward the communist destination.

#### HOW TO RECOGNIZE REVOLUTION

But the communist method is something that every American should know, so that he can recognize it when it comes down the street. The classic pattern has varied little from October, 1917, whether in Russia itself, or Rumania or Hungary. Communists often announce as their program the exact opposite of what they really intend to do. STEP ONE: Lenin entered Russia in April, 1917, a month after the overthrow of the Czar. For the next seven months he denied steadfastly that the Communists had communist intentions. He reassured business men they should not think it his intention "to deprive the business owner of a single penny of his money. It is necessary," he went on, "to lay great stress upon this fact because of the behaviour of the middle-class press, which frightens the smaller traders with the threat that Socialists, and in particular Bolsheviks, desire to 'expropriate' them." no idea of what was to follow.

The real intentions of his party were thus carefully concealed. Even the vast majority of those who carried out the final coup in November had any idea of what was to follow.

In one of his columns in 1937 George Sokolsky reported that the business men of Russia back in 1919 and 1920 were confident that if the Bolsheviks came to power they could do business with them — they could do business with any government. Then he relates that when the Bolsheviks succeeded these business men lost everything — their property and their lives. And Sokolsky adds that he met the wives and daughters of many of them a year or two later in Chinese cities where they were earning their living in the only way that was left to them.

STEP TWO: This was the time to find a suitable slogan. "Revolutions are made with the slogan of the day," said Lenin. He found one that could exploit popular feeling without revealing his aims. "Peace and bread!" he cried. Russians were weary of the war, and the price of food was high. The slogan won him supporters — in particular two regiments of the Petrograd garrison.

STEP THREE: The Party was to work through other people while keeping itself as invisible as possible. At the same time there existed in Petrograd a "soviet" of soldiers and workers. It was not like the soviets of today. It was an unofficial council, as innocent appearing as the Labor-Management Councils set up by the New Dealers during the war. This "soviet" was popular with the "proletarians." It was considered as representing all parties — therefore higher than any. By the middle of September the Bolsheviks, boring from within, had secured an actual majority of this "soviet." They then prepared to use its prestige to destroy all other parties.

STEP FOUR: This was to prepare for the insurrection. The order went out October 23rd to organize the staff of the insurrective detachments. The staff was apparently not Bolshevik: it was called the "Military Revolutionary Committee of the Petrograd Soviet." This was the first Communist Front — and it worked.

STEP FIVE: This was the Big Lie. For two weeks before the day set for the rising, it was first whispered, then spoken, and on the final day, shouted. Lenin had explained the Lie to his intimates: "an armed uprising . . . imposes the duty on one in all public utterances to lay not only the blame but also the initiative at the door of the adversary."

So, rumors began to circulate that the Government itself was plotting to restore the monarchy. Day by day more details were "divulged." The Government timed to destroy all other parties. It wanted to call off the elections for the Constituent Assembly, set for November. It planned to call in the Germans. Each day the Bolshevik newspaper PRAVDA ran banner headlines: "Long Live the Constituent Assembly, Master of the Russian Land!" None of these rumors had the slightest basis.

STEP SIX: This was the revolt itself and the seizure of power which took place November 6, 1917. On that morning the two regiments were told that "the counter-revolution" mentioned in the rumors had begun, and the "soviet" ordered them out to "crush it." They were joined by a mob of workers and sailors, most of whom imagined they were crushing a counter-revolution.

But they were expertly led. Before the next day ended, the soviet forces were in control of every key office and facility in the capital. The surprised government was unable to resist.

How large was the force that enabled the Bolshevik-led movement to seize and hold power in a capital city of three millions? In all, soldiers, sailors and mob, less than twenty thousand. But the whole coup was engineered and carried out by less than twenty men who knew where they were going.

Lenin, having gained power, issued a statement to the nation. The elections would go on as scheduled. If the Social Revolutionaries (whom he had just thrown out) were victorious, he said, "As a democratic government we cannot disregard the decision of the people . . . we shall still say: 'so be it.'"

STEP SEVEN: The elections were held — with the Bolsheviks in power and in charge of election machinery. The Social Revolutionaries received sixty per cent of the 36 million ballots cast. The Bolsheviks had twenty-five per cent, other parties fifteen per cent.

The voters had repudiated Lenin. Did he acquiesce? He did not. The Constituent Assembly was opened on January 18, 1918. Lenin's first act was to arrest all non-socialist deputies. When a Social Revolutionary defeated a Bolshevik candidate for speaker by polling seventy-five per cent of all votes, the Assembly signed its own death-warrant. It was promptly dispersed by bayonets. Most of its members were subsequently "liquidated."

Lenin explained to the country that his action was necessary because the Assembly was acting "as cover for the struggle of bourgeois counter revolutionists for the overthrow of the power of the soviets." Nothing more was said about the "Master of the Russian Land" which the revolution had been started to "save" from Kerensky!

STEP EIGHT: It had been possible to get power only by use of the Common Front technique in the Petrograd "soviet." As soon as that power was consolidated, the other members of the Common Front were pushed out of office. Most of them were later liquidated — the standard communist reward for its tools and dupes.

NINTH AND FINAL STEP was re-establishment of the Secret Political Police on December 20th. From that day to this no Russian has dared to call his soul his own.

It is not difficult to see how this basic method could be applied here in America after the stage has been set for it and when a period of crisis has come either with the tragedy of ruinous inflation or during war with the Soviet Union. Our Lenin, if he comes, will doubtless also promise us "a democratic government."

In part, the method is already being applied — notably in the use of the "Common Front." Here the Bolsheviks call it the "United Front," and American Communists and their stooges constantly make it appear that America faces the threat of "fascist" domination. Just as Lenin did, they accuse those they wish to destroy of plotting the very things they themselves are plotting.

#### In Light of History

##### What Would Administration Do?

Just what administration may be in power if and when the Communists attempt their coup in America, we cannot know. But though the Truman Administration is making fists at Communism with one hand, with the other it is still appeasing it both at home and abroad. If a Communist insurrection were to begin today we wonder whether those who have for so many years been appeasing the Soviet Union until it has become a habit might not also try to appease Communism at home.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY SHOULD BE MADE BY LAW A CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION AND ITS MEMBERS SUBJECTED TO CRIMINAL PENALTIES. We had better quit fooling around. This is a tough world and the Communists are playing for keeps. We are under no obligation to sit by while Communists use "civil liberties" as a cloak to destroy civil liberties. We had better begin to play for keeps, too.

The Administration is moving heaven and earth to force through Congress the proposal to spend \$17 billion to defeat Communism in Europe. Yet it is spending little or nothing to defeat Communism in the United States. Indeed, the Washington Administration, during most of the past fifteen years, has been the main bolster of World Communism — and some of its policies still lend it aid in the United States.

Which is a main reason why we think Communism is a danger to America.

Merwin K. Hart, President,  
National Economic Council, Inc.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Peoria, Ill., January 24, 1948  
Common Sense, Union, N. J.

Enclosed you will find my pledge to support your good work during this year of 1948.

You are doing an untold amount of good, in your fight against Communism, and every red-blooded American should support you in your work, to the limit.

You may publish this if you wish, with my name in full, for I am proud to be connected with you and your good work. God bless you in this work, because you are on His side, and He is on yours.

R. M. WESTCOTT  
227 Linn St., Peoria 5, Illinois

Bochum, Germany

Dear Friends:

With the greatest joy we have received on the 11th of December your (Liebesgaben) gift package. From the very bottom of our hearts we express our heartiest thanks. May the God above repay you for that which you have done for us poor people in Germany. Your letter also came on the 8th of December. All articles from your package are very useful be they food or clothing.

With the shoes you made me very happy as my shoes were in such a bad condition that I was not able to leave the house with them. They fit very well. The clothes must be made to fit. And the pullover for my husband was like a gift from heaven. As the package came my husband was not there so I took the pullover so I could put it on the Christmas table for him. So with your help we will be able to have a festive holiday and with the food we can enrich our otherwise sparing Christmas table.

How did you know that I like coffee? We cannot get any at all over here. That can only be had in the black market at very high prices. The coffee helps cheer us up. And the fat came in very handy. I must usually cook without fat. And the chocolate, I haven't seen that around for years. And the rest of the things are very useful.

Yes, we feel the same way about Communism being the greatest menace to mankind if it ever gets a good hold it will destroy all civilization.

With friendly greeting, your thankful

LINI RUTTLOFF

Bochum, Germany

Common Sense; Dear Mrs. Horn:

We received your package today. It arrived in fine condition. You just couldn't imagine how happy we are. It was beyond our expectations. A thousand thanks from all of us. They were all fine useful articles even the shoes fit our Ursel. Now she can make the long trip to school on whole shoes. It was a great responsibility for me this winter. In the summer she wore wooden shoes. And for me a new coat. I am going to make it fit by Christmas. Oh the child was so happy that she has written a few lines to you herself. Many thanks for the food articles, we have divided them among our family, mostly, so that everyone would have a little something to make them happy for Christmas and would not have to look on.

And now I must close and once more my heartiest thanks and if it is possible perhaps we could receive another gift package in the near future.

With best regard, Family Wilhelm.

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## Is Stalin Promoting the Marshall Plan?

(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE)

"Words must have no relation to actions — otherwise what kind of diplomacy is it? . . . Sincere diplomacy is no more possible than dry water or wooden iron."

That Stalin, Molotov and Vishinsky are plain stupid is a conclusion to be aware of. You've got to look at these politicians obliquely to get them in focus. They are past-masters in treachery, faithless to the plighted word, and skilled in Oriental cunning. Can it be supposed that when Vishinsky attacked us in New York that he was just shooting off his mouth because his ears loved the noise? There are two angles worth considering — maybe more. One is that he made these noises to bolster up his fellow tyrants back home — make the proletariats believe we were gunning for them, and they had better close ranks. Machiavelli and Sherlock Holmes would surely keep this thought in mind.

The other angle is that Vishinsky KNEW his speeches would create American sentiment for the Marshall Plan, and deliberately made them as a come-on.

Then came the establishment of the Cominform in Belgrade, and Molotov's speech in Moscow with the horrid news that Russia had the atom bomb. That sounded phony to me. If Russia had it, why advertise it? The London Times said, "The effect of the Molotov speech will be — like most Soviet actions lately — to help the progress through Congress of the European Recovery Program." Are we to believe the Kremlin brain is so simple as not to know that?

If Russia wants to promote the Marshall Plan, it's as plain as the nose on a wall-faced pike that the way to do it is to antagonize and terrify the naive Americans.

As Garet Garrett says in "American Affairs": "Why should Moscow, pretending otherwise, want the Marshall Plan? Here one question may help to answer another. Why should it not want it? In the first place, American billions poured into Europe cannot be controlled by political dikes; they will flow in all directions Russia and her satellites are bound to be benefited somewhat. These American billions will create new assets in Europe . . . If they believe, as they do, that a debacle of the capitalist system in the United States would deliver the world to socialism, and secondly, that this prodigious aid to Europe will weaken the economic structure and hasten that debacle, then, of course, they would be for the Marshall Plan."

Lenin said he would make the capitalistic countries choke on their bonds and printed money. Load up any country with too much debt, too high taxes, and printing press inflation and you can destroy it. Is Stalin practicing what Lenin preached?

This is no time to let our natural tendency to be boobs get completely out of hand.

\* \* \*

### THE PATTERN REPEATS ?

Are we already at war, or just a step or two away?

The request to us of the Greek Premier Themistocles Sophoulis for 500 mountain guns follows a familiar pattern. "Give us the guns," he seems to say, "and we will win the war against the Communist guerillas." What next?

One of England's best informed men in public life, in private conversation, recently said, in substance:

"The United States does not seem to realize that it is at war. You have sent \$300,000,000 to Greece, and military officers to help the Greeks win their fight. You recently sent Marines into the Mediterranean. You will have to send more money and military forces to Greece. You can't back out. You can't haul down your flag. Russia and

the satellite countries on the North of Greece will resist. They will increase their forces, and some day there will be a clash. Then you will have to pour more men and money into Greece, and you will then have a shooting war on your hands. You will have to send millions of men to Europe. No one can predict when this shooting war will start. But you are in a situation which means that you are now at war because you can't back down. England backed out because she is no longer a first-rate power. You are the defenders of civilization."

That is only one man's opinion, but he has important contacts in and out of the British government.

I am one of those simple souls who believes the people are entitled to be told, with complete honesty, just what are the intentions of our public officials. There seems to be no reason for secrecy.

If we are sending shooting men to the Mediterranean and the Middle East, Russian military intelligence knows it. So why not expose the problem and the danger to the grass-roots judgment of the American people? Maybe they could offer some suggestions of value. Anyhow, they are the ones who pay and die, and have a moral right to be informed.

If our officials had never made a serious mistake in foreign policy, we might think differently. But we have seen the astounding naivete with which a half dozen men built up Russia as a "peace-loving democracy" into a greater threat to our security, possibly, than Hitler's regime.

This leads to some skepticism as to whether a handful of men should have the war-making power (supposed to be in Congress under the Constitution) completely in their hands, without the check or benefit of public opinion.

There was Yalta, Cairo, Teheran, Potsdam, the Morgenthau Plan, the betrayal of Poland, an ally, the forced surrender to Russia by China, another ally, of important territory and interests in Manchuria and Korea, and by Japan in the Kurile Islands. Not so hot. And at the end of three years, no peace anywhere!

Does the pattern repeat? — the 50 destroyers, the arming of Iceland, the "shoot at sight" order — all before Pearl Harbor.

In short, has the war power slipped completely out of the hands of Congress and the people? Is the Marshall Plan a charity operation to succor the hungry or helpless, or is it an instrument of war?

If we are now as near to war as this Englishman thinks, the real question is whether we should give priority in the use of our assets to build up American defense or allocate them to international charity.

On that great question of our time, I claim the American people are entitled to full knowledge of the facts and to be heard.

SAMUEL B. PETTENGILL.

## COMMON SENSE

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